

What is Claimed is:

1. A composition for topical or transdermal administration comprising:
  - 5 (i) a bioactive agent; and
  - (ii) Gilsonite oil.
2. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
3. The composition of claim 2, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of excipients, preservatives, antioxidants, fragrances, emulsifiers, dyes, adhesives, polymers and additional penetration enhancers.
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4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the bioactive agent is present in about 0.0001 % to about 50 % by weight.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the Gilsonite oil is present in about 0.0001 % to about 50 % by weight.
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6. A penetration-enhancing system comprising,
  - (i) Gilsonite oil; and
  - (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
7. The penetration-enhancing system of claim 6, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
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8. The penetration-enhancing system of claim 7, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of excipients, preservatives, antioxidants, fragrances, emulsifiers, dyes, adhesives, polymers and additional penetration enhancers.

5           9. The penetration-enhancing system of claim 6, wherein the bioactive agent is present in about 0.0001 % to about 50 % by weight.

10           10. The penetration-enhancing system of claim 6, wherein the Gilsonite oil is present in about 0.0001 % to about 50 % by weight.

15           11. A composition for topical or transdermal application with enhanced penetration comprising:  
              (a) a bioactive agent; and  
              (b) a penetration enhancing system comprising;  
                    (i) Gilsonite oil; and  
                    (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. The composition for topical or transdermal application of claim 11, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is selected from the group consisting of oils, lotions, gels, creams, and ointments.

20           13. The composition for topical or transdermal application of claim 11, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for use with transdermal patches.

14. The composition for topical or transdermal application of claim 12, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of excipients, preservatives, antioxidants, fragrances, emulsifiers, dyes, adhesives, polymers and additional penetration enhancers.

5           15. The composition for topical or transdermal application of claim 12, wherein the bioactive agent is present in about 0.0001 % to about 50 % by weight.

16. The composition for topical or transdermal application of claim 12, wherein the Gilsonite oil is present in about 0.0001 % to about 50 % by weight.

10           17. A method for enhancing the penetration of a bioactive agent through the skin of a human or warm-blooded animal which comprises applying to a body surface:

- (a) a bioactive agent; and
- (b) a penetration-enhancing system comprising,
  - (i) Gilsonite oil; and
  - 15           (ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. The method for enhancing the penetration of claim 17, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is selected from the group consisting of oils, lotions, gels, creams, adhesives and ointments.

20           19. The method for enhancing the penetration of claim 17, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for use with transdermal patches.

20. The method for enhancing the penetration of claim 18, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of excipients, preservatives, antioxidants, fragrances, emulsifiers, dyes, adhesives, polymers and additional penetration enhancers.

5           21. The method for enhancing the penetration claim 18, wherein the bioactive agent is present in about 0.0001 % to about 50 % by weight.

22. The method for enhancing the penetration of claim 18, wherein the Gilsonite oil is present in about 0.0001 % to about 50 % by weight.

10           23. A method for delivering a bioactive agent transdermally, which method comprises administering to the skin a composition comprising  
(i) a bioactive agent; and  
(ii) Gilsonite oil.

15           24. The method for delivering a bioactive agent transdermally of claim 23, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier selected from the group consisting of oils, lotions, gels, creams, and ointments.

25. The method for delivering a bioactive agent transdermally of claim 24, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for use with transdermal patches.

26. The method for delivering a bioactive agent transdermally of claim 24, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable additive selected from the group consisting of excipients, preservatives, antioxidants, fragrances, emulsifiers, dyes, adhesives, polymers and additional penetration enhancers.

5           27. The method for delivering a bioactive agent transdermally of claim 24, wherein the bioactive agent is present in about 0.0001 % to about 50 % by weight.

10           28. The method for delivering a bioactive agent transdermally of claim 24, wherein the Gilsonite oil is present in about 0.0001 % to about 50 % by weight.

29. A method for making a composition for transdermal delivery of a bioactive agent comprising mixing the bioactive agent and a Gilsonite oil in proportions effective to provide a composition for the desired use.

15           30. The method for making a composition for transdermal delivery of claim 29, further comprising mixing in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier selected from the group consisting of oils, lotions, gels, creams, adhesives and ointments.

20           31. The method of claim 30, further comprising mixing in at least one pharmaceutically acceptable penetration-enhancing additives, excipients, preservatives, antioxidants, fragrances, emulsifiers, or dyes.

32. A device for topical or transdermal administration of a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) an applicator adapted for placement on the skin or nail; and

(b) a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

5 (i) a Gilsonite oil; and

(ii) a bioactive agent.

33. The device of claim 32, wherein the device is a transdermal patch, strip or a container.

10 34. The device of claim 33, wherein the device is a transdermal patch and the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for use with transdermal patches.

35. The device of claim 33 wherein the bioactive agent is present in about 0.0001% to about 50% by weight and the Gilsonite oil is present in about 0.0001% to about 50% by weight.

15 36. A method of making a device for drug administration comprising providing an applicator adapted for placement on the skin or nail and incorporating into the applicator a composition comprising a Gilsonite oil and a bioactive agent.